



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 1542.4A
OP-59F1

2 October 1991

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1542.4A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: NAVAL AVIATOR/FLIGHT SURGEON (NA/FS) PROGRAM

Ref: (a) BUPERSMAN 6610360
(b) OPNAVINST 3710.7N
(c) Public Law 93-294, Aviation Career Incentive Act of 1974

1. Purpose. To revise and reissue previously established policy and procedures, and assign responsibilities for administration of the Naval Aviator/Flight Surgeon (NA/FS) Program.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1542.4.

3. Background. Development of effective, new air weapon systems in the past has been highly sensitive to human engineering factors. The unique demands of naval aviation and the multiplicity of aviation programs have required the support of a limited officer inventory skilled concurrently in the professional qualifications of naval aviator and flight surgeon. To meet that requirement, selected individuals trained as medical officers have been cross-trained as naval aviators. Their assignments were selectively made to meet the identified requirements of billets or projects/programs requiring the skills of both disciplines in a single individual. The billets predominated in, but were not limited to, Navy research and development activities. The increasing number and complexity of emerging weapon systems have required the services of dually designated aviators/flight surgeons beyond the capacity of the current officer inventory to support. A modest expansion and formalization of the previous program is required.

4. Program Description. The need to maintain a group of individuals qualified as both naval aviator and flight surgeon to support naval aeromedical efforts was recognized and implemented on a trial basis in May 1976. The program has been reaffirmed under the following guidelines:

a. Reference (a) stipulates trainees shall incur the same minimum service obligation as that incurred for naval aviator training, to commence upon designation as a NA/FS.



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2 OCT 1991

b. Physical standards established for Service Group I Naval Aviators apply for those personnel entering the NA/FS program. Formerly designated naval aviators who subsequently were designated flight surgeons shall normally be under the age of 38 at commencement of flight refresher training. Age waivers for flight training, if required, will be approved by Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (ACNO) (Air Warfare) (OP-59) on a case basis.

5. Administration. Procedures and criteria for the NA/FS program are:

a. Only those flight surgeons who are former designated naval aviators will be eligible to be considered for the naval aviator/flight surgeon program. Flight surgeons not previously designated as naval aviators are not eligible to apply. (See paragraph 6, Other Service Aeronautical Designation.)

b. Medical officers who are former designated naval aviators and who will successfully complete (or have successfully completed) a prescribed flight surgeon syllabus shall submit applications for the program to Bureau of Personnel (BUPERS) (PERS-43) via Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (CHBUMED) (MED-3B3) and ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-59). Applications must be accompanied by a record of all previous military service, a summary of all military and civilian flight experience, and a current complete aviation physical examination.

c. BUPERS (PERS-43) will periodically convene and chair a formal selection board to consider NA/FS program applicants. The board will have representatives from ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-59) as well as CHBUMED (MED-3B3).

d. Upon acceptance, candidates will complete an appropriate flight refresher program as directed by ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-59) to reestablish currency as a naval aviator.

6. Other Service Aeronautical Designation. Flight Surgeons not previously designated naval aviator who hold aeronautical pilot ratings from another military service shall be considered as a separate category during any selection board proceedings. Application and procedures shall follow the provisions of paragraph 5.

7. Training. Initial and follow-on training requirements for the NA/FS program are:

2 OCT 1991

a. For flight surgeons previously designated as naval aviators, or those acceptable candidates holding previous aeronautical pilot ratings from another military service, initial flight refresher training normally will consist of a tailored Naval Integrated Flight Training System (NIFTS) syllabus in the intermediate and advanced strike (jet) flight training program. In selected individual cases, considering previous aviation experience, operational and research needs and other requirements, appropriate refresher training may be conducted in other than jet programs. To preclude unnecessary training, Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) will determine training requirements on an individual basis.

b. Flight training will be authorized by ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-59) only for those previously designated individuals who will function as assigned NA/FS, and will not be approved for former naval aviators primarily serving in hospital based clinical specialties.

8. Career Pattern

a. Upon completion of appropriate training, officers designated as NA/FSs shall remain members of the Navy Medical Corps. Once designated as NA/FS, officers will serve a minimum of three duty tours in billets requiring dual designator qualification. Although not a limitation, it is anticipated that the three tours will be among the first five following designation as NA/FS to obtain maximum return to the Navy from the training investment. Such an assignment strategy will also sustain the highest measure of flight skill currency and safety, and assure a broadly based and current cadre of dual designation experience from which to draw for senior management assignments requiring such background and qualification.

b. The following duty assignment categories will fulfill the NA/FS obligated service requirements and provide maximum career/program development potential they will also concurrently supporting the requirement for sufficient dual designated officers to meet research and development programmed personnel requirements.

(1) Assignment to a tactical jet fleet readiness squadron for a normal tour in a flight surgeon operational flying billet.

(2) Assignment to a Research and Development (R&D) Type squadron or activity for at least one tour in a Flight Surgeon operational flying billet.

2 OCT 1991

(3) Assignment to post graduate training (aerospace medicine residency, Master of Public Health (MPH), or aeromedical sub-specialty).

(4) Assignment as Senior Medical Officer aboard an aircraft carrier.

(5) Assignment to an aeromedical safety, operations/fleet staff billet, or selected Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) management billet.

(6) Assignment to further management/military training and senior Flight Surgeon or command billets, as appropriate.

9. Billet Identification. Flight surgeon billets allowed for jet Fleet Readiness Squadrons, R&D activities, and squadrons will be utilized for NA/FS duty assignments. The billets will continue to be identified by existing 2102 billets designators and 1602 (NOBC) codes. If more discrete billet identification is required, a secondary NOBC of the 8500 series, denoting aircraft qualification, may be assigned.

10. Program Implementation

a. Flight Surgeons formerly designated as naval aviators are not authorized to fly as naval aviators unless in training for or designated as a NA/FS.

b. Individuals designated NA/FS are not authorized to fly as a naval aviator unless specifically ordered to duty involving operational and training flights as a NA/FS

c. Medical officers in training for and/or designated as NA/FSs are authorized to pilot naval aircraft and log pilot time during periods of flight training leading to designation and, upon designation, when assigned to specified NA/FS operational flying billets. During periods of assignments to other billets, the provisions of paragraph 1111, reference (b), apply. NA/FSs assigned to operational flying billets under duty in a flying status involving operational or training flights (DIFOPS) orders shall comply with the annual minimum flight hour requirements for naval aviators as set forth in chapter 11 of reference (b) and the aviation qualification/currency requirements (Naval Aviator) outlined in figure 11-1 of reference (b).

d. In consonance with the statutory provisions of reference (c), NA/FSs will not be entitled to continuous aviation career incentive pay or accumulation of operational flying credit, but

: 2 OCT 1991

will be entitled to monthly incentive pay when assigned to operational flying status, provided monthly performance requirements are met.

11. Responsibilities

a. ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-05)

- (1) Resource sponsor for the program.
- (2) Direct specific pilot training requirements to support the NA/FS Program.

b. CHBUMED (MED-3B3)

- (1) Overall program sponsor
- (2) Coordinate with the ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-05) and BUPERS (PERS-43) in joint areas of program management.
- (3) Act as the Medical Specialty Advisor for flight surgeons designated as NA/FS.

c. Chief, BUPERS (PERS-43)

- (1) Coordinate all personnel actions relating to the general training and assignment of NA/FS personnel.

d. CNATRA

- (1) Ensure personnel are trained for the NA/FS program in accordance with guideline established by OP-05.

12. Action

a. ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-05)

- (1) Determine each year the actual number of flight surgeons to be trained as NA/FS based on existing aeromedical research requirements in coordination with CHBUMED (MED-3B3).

- (2) Annually assess, in conjunction with CHBUMED, the NA/FS program.

- (3) Develop specific program training requirements leading to the NA/FS designation.

2 OCT 1991

b. CHBUMED (MED-3B3)

(1) Coordinate and monitor duty assignments of NA/FS designated individuals to achieve maximum program benefit.

(2) Identify, coordinate, and ensure the provision, in conjunction with Chief of Naval Operations, of subsequent specialized training as may become necessary to fill program requirements.

(3) Monitor career paths of individuals designated NA/FS.

(4) Annually assess, in conjunction with ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-05), the NA/FS program.

c. BUPERS (PERS-43).

(1) Receive and track all applications for NA/FS training.

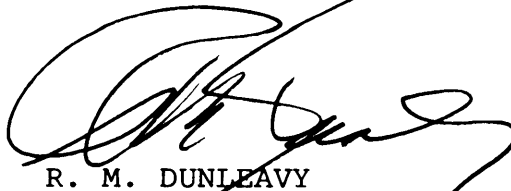
(2) Periodically convene and chair a Board for the selection of applicants for training as a NA/FS.

(3) Notify applicants of their selection.

d. CNATRA

(1) Determine individual training requirements for candidate NA/FS on a case basis.

(2) Monitor the progress of personnel in training for the NA/FS designation and report, as appropriate, to ACNO (Air Warfare) (OP-05) and CHBUMED (MED-3B3).



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2 OCT 1991

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